

INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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- I. Vnutrenniye bolezn' by Ye M Tareyev (Medgiz, Moscow, 1951, 950 pp)
- II. OSNOYNYE DIAGNOSTIKI I CHASTNOY PATOLOGII (PROPEDEVTIKA) Vnutrennikh bolezney by A L Myasnikov (Medgiz, Moscow, 1951, 680 pp)
- III. KORONARNAYA BOLEZNI' by V Ye Nezlin (Tsentral'nyy Institut Usovershenstvovaniya Vrachey, Moscow 1951, 264 pp)
- IV. Vnutrenniye bolezn' by V I Kristman (Medgiz, Moscow 1951, 444 pp)
- V. Gosudarstvennaya farmakopeya SSSR (Medgiz, Moscow 1952, 822 pp)
- VI. N. F. GAMALEYA - TOM VTOROY (Akad Med Nauk SSSR, Moscow 1951, 386 pp) 7

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CLASSIFICATION

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3. Tareyev's book consists of two parts: a short introduction (26 pages) and the body of the book itself (about 900 pages). It is a textbook for students and young physicians. From the professional point of view, [redacted] it is [redacted] comparable to the best of books on the subject published in Western countries. Its general subject is internal medicine but it places particular emphasis on physiological topics. Its method of presentation is reminiscent more of US texts than European. If Soviet students study this work thoroughly, they unquestionably are very competent in the treatment of diseases of the internal organs. [redacted] no unusual methods in the book.

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4. The book mentions all the achievements of well-known Russian physicians but in their proper place with no chauvinistic exaggeration. [redacted] the style of the introduction differs greatly from that of the body of the book and [redacted] the introduction was probably written by someone other than Tareyev. On page nine for example, [redacted] the following statement "the general work of the great Coripheus of medicine Stalin in linguistics furnished the leading points necessary for the development of all sciences." [redacted] As was to be expected, the introduction also overemphasized the work of Pavlov. Still another political point in the introduction is a reference on page eight to the research work of Dr M A Usiyevich, who carried on scientific studies concerned with the conditioned reflectory processes. Usiyevich stated that it was possible to change artificially the character of these reflexes in dogs. His experiments, as described in Tareyev's book, are of questionable scientific value but help to explain the recent acceptance and virtual deification of Pavlov. There are various other political points in the introduction.

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5. The remainder of the introduction is a historical survey of Russian medicine.

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[redacted] It is interesting, however, that various scientists like Zakharin, Bodkhi, and Ostroumov, who were considered enemies of the Marxist ideology in the 1920's and 1930's, are now apparently regarded as saints. It is now possible to find medical books containing pictures of Lang, Konchalovskiy and even Strazhesko, in spite of their earlier anti-Communist activities. Strazhesko, for example, was active in the General Denikin movement in 1917-1919.

6. The propaganda program [redacted] is evident in this textbook and is clear from the following quotation (page 27): "It is enough to say that in the US pneumonia is a more serious disease than in the Soviet Union because wide circles of their workers cannot get adequate medical care. On the contrary, valuable measures in health protection in our Socialistic state, such as sanitary labor conditions, large programs for the construction of workers apartments, adequate and rational nutrition for the workers, the development of physical and mental culture programs, all contribute to the fact that we are near the solution of the problems of the prevention of various diseases."

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II. СЛОВОУ ДІАГНОСТИКИ І ЧАСТНОЇ ПАТОЛОГІЇ (ПРОПЕДВТИКА) ВНУТРЕННІХ БОЛЕЗНЕЙ

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He did in fact get into some trouble with the Communist government because of his frankness and was sent to Siberia for four or five years during the early 1930's. He was not, however, sent to a prison camp but merely sent out as a professor of medicine. Actually this period in Siberia worked to his advantage since he missed the great purge in Leningrad which followed the Kirov affair. He later returned to Leningrad and apparently is still there. It is very peculiar [] that in spite of his former political unreliability, Myasnikov like Tareyev, was a member of the group which treated Stalin during his final illness. Perhaps both of these men, who were considered politically unreliable in the 1930's, subsequently changed their political positions []

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9. There are political quotations in this book as well, but of the most innocent kind. For example, in the introduction the author quotes from Lenin (page 12): "Theory without practice is dead". This after all is unquestionably true no matter who says it. Like Tareyev, Myasnikov in his introduction also furnishes a historical survey of Russian medicine. The similarity is remarkable and in fact he even has the same photographs of leading medical figures as illustrations. Myasnikov was a pupil of Lang who was of German origin and was in many ways a typical German scientist. Lang would not change his opinions or attitudes even after the Revolution, but in spite of this for some reason, presumably his professional skill, he was not persecuted by the Communists.

10. On page 28 the author lists what he considers to be the principal features not only of Soviet medicine but also of old Russian medicine. These may be listed as follows:

- (a) Social character in contradistinction to German scholasticism, French utilitarianism and extreme individualism (this statement is peculiar coming from Myasnikov who was strongly pro-German and who attempted to be a typical young German scientist, presumably because of the influence of Lang).
- (b) A tendency to search for leading principles (hence the presently favored theories of Pavlov and Lyssenko).
- (c) A great interest in the relationship of the internal and external factors causing various diseases, (of great importance in this connection is the present Soviet claim of the variability of hereditary factors).
- (d) Individualization in diagnosis and treatment in contradistinction to standardization as encountered in the US.

11. As a matter of fact all these statements are either false or only half true. [] Russian medicine as well as Ukrainian medicine, Caucasian medicine, etc., even up to the present should be regarded as one of the most traditional medicines in the world. The art of medical observation, which has unfortunately often been forgotten by Western physicians, is a very important feature of Russian medicine. This art was cultivated by

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Russian physicians. Other characteristics of Russian medicine are its great humanitarianism and the fact that it has not forgotten the effective and time-honored methods of phito and physio-therapy.

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Without any doubt, for example, individualism in diagnosis and treatment is followed by all prominent physicians in all countries.

12. Later on in the book, Myasnikov furnishes another introductory chapter. This is on the nervous system and internal organs. It is a very objective survey without any exaggerations. It is peculiar only in that he quotes Orbell who has been in disgrace because of his opposition to Lysenko.

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both Tareyev and Myasnikov failed to mention the names of many distinguished scientists who were disgraced, arrested or killed by the Communists in the 1920's and 1930's. It now appears that Communist authorities furnish authors with a list of scientists who may be mentioned in scientific works. Both Tareyev and Myasnikov cite foreign sources but only very few of these references date from after World War II.

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13. The body of the book is a very valuable non-political contribution. It would be of interest to any students of medicine in any country and has the advantage that all clinical methods of investigation and the significance of experimental results are described in complete detail.

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nowadays, many younger physicians ignore these subjects. Neither in this book nor in Tareyev's were there any unusual features presented. Both are at the level of contemporary science. Although there are no outstanding achievements presented, neither did the books show any areas in which the USSR was behind the US.

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III. KORONARNAYA BOLEZNI'

14. This is a book for specialists in internal medicine and, unlike the two texts described above, is designed for a much smaller circle of readers. Perhaps for this reason the political quotations in it are kept to a minimum and in fact the only one encountered is contained on Page 11: "Factors like overfatigue and depression play an especially important role in the development of disease in capitalistic countries where heart conditions exist in wide circles of the population. Continual heavy work on the part of the workers leads to a traumatization of the neuro-psychiatric sphere. In our Socialist countries, free, cheerful work, which is the source of positive emotions, a happy life and the organization of regular rest periods, positively influence the function of the nervous and vascular systems."

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15. This book is very well written and Nezhlin's compares very favorably. The author apparently has had a great deal of experience. He apparently specializes particularly in electro-cardiography and all modern modifications of this method of examination have been used by him and are adequately explained in the text. The same could also be said about his chapters concerned with the pathology and treatment of coronary diseases. He may perhaps differ slightly from modern western authors in this field in that he furnishes a more detailed description of the clinical side than they usually do.

16. The author gives a very good survey of the work of N N Anichkov who started contemporary research in this field by his discovery of the role of cholesterol in the development of arteriosclerosis. He also pays much attention to the early work of Obrastsov and Strazhesko, who furnished the first clinical description of coronary disease in 1909. Prior to the publication of their work, it was unknown that this condition could be discovered per vitam and it is most unfortunate that their pioneer work in this field remains unknown to many modern western scientists. Obrastsov, of course, was very famous prior to World War I and was a personal friend of Sir William Osler. In 1920 he tried to leave the USSR, was caught and shortly after this died in poverty.

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17. Prof. Nezhlin furnishes at the end of his book a large bibliography of Soviet publications. He also quotes many French, UK and US sources but the most recent non-Soviet citation was dated 1947 although the book was published in 1951. No German contributions are found.

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IV. VNIITRENNIYE BOLEZNI

18. This is an elementary book on internal medicine for nurses. It is well written with particular emphasis on practical topics. It contains, however, a large quantity of propaganda material such as this incredible statement which is found on page 15: "The capitalistic regime is the most important cause of any disease." Pavlov and Lysenko are quoted at great length. The most significant thing in the book is that fact that the author gives detailed description of how to prepare vitamin-containing drinks and recommends the use of drinks made from potatoes, carrots, cranberries and wild roses for the vitamins they contain. This suggests the complete lack or definite shortage in the USSR of vitamin preparations.

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V. SOSUDARSTVENNAYA FARMAKOPEIA SSSR

19. This is a very lavishly illustrated book. It is very peculiar that although the book was not published until 1952, it was completed in the period 1938-1944. The book is regarded as a fundamental treatise for the druggist and it contains a very detailed description of chemical properties, biological characteristics and many pharmaceutical peculiarities. It is stated in the book that it includes 239 new drugs in comparison with its previous edition and that 113 drugs contained in the earlier edition have been dropped from this later one. In spite of this the book seems to be very obsolete because it deals mostly with very old-fashioned drugs.

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One wonders why, therefore, they were dealt with in this book. The most likely answer is that obsolete medical methods continued to be used in the remote areas in the USSR and among the peasants. After all, inadequacy is a prominent feature of Soviet society and may be particularly pronounced in the field of medical care.

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VI. N F GAMALEYA - TOM VTOROY

20. Gamaleya died in 1949 at the age of 90. He worked for a great many years in the field of bacteriology and in fact at one time was associated with Pasteur. He made many valuable contributions to this field but was not really a great scientific star. I read the material in this book first about 25 years ago and at that time it was good but now in 1953 it seems very obsolete. It may have some interest for specialists in bacteriology, but only from a historical point of view.

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